National Policy for Voluntary Organisation

2579. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the joint machinery for collaborative relationship between Government and the voluntary organisations has decided to formulate a national policy to involve the voluntary sector in the development efforts of the country;

(b) if so, the salient feaures of the proposed policy;

(c) whether the draft plan has been circulated for comments to the States, Voluntary Organisations and others concerned; and

(d) if so, the comments received from above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Joint Machinery for collaborative relationship between Government and the voluntary organisations had decided to formulate a national policy on the voluntary sector.

(b) to (d) A meeting of representatives of the voluntary sector was convened on 18th February 2005 to discuss the Draft Policy. In the meeting it was decided that the Draft Policy on this complex sector having lot of diversity requires through revision to revise the Draft Policy, expert groups have been constituted with members from voluntary sector.

Waiver of Central Debts

2580. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have been requesting the Central Government to waive off the Central Debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons advanced by the State Government in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of Government to these proposals from the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN). (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Several State

governments have sought debt write-off. Details are indicated in the enclosed Statement (See below).

Government of India is generally guided by the recommendations of the Finance Commission is not generally agreed to. Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended consolidation and reschedulement of Government of India loans to State Governments for a fesh period of 20 years at 7.5% rate of interest of States which adopt fiscal responsibility legislation as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

The Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended a debt write-off scheme linked to reduction in revenue deficit by States. The quantum of write-off of repayment would be linked to the absolute amount by which the revenue deficit is reduced in each successive year during the Twelfth Finance Commission award period. In accordance with this recommendation, the benefit of write-off would be available only if the fiscal deficit of the State is contained to the level of 2004-05. If in any year, the fiscal deficit exceeds this level, the benefit of write-off, even if eligible otherwise, would not be given. States are likely to get waiver of Rs. 32198.69 crores over the period 2005-2010, if they meet all conditions of the scheme.

Statement

Details of States sought debt write-off

Name of states	Subject
1.Andhra Pradesh	• Waiver of debt serving liabilities for the year 2003-04
2. Assam	• Special debt relief package on the line of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir • Write off all outstanding loans both principal and interest including loans for Brahamputra flood control
3. Orissa	• Debt write off interest relief for debt of Rs. 400 crores
4. Manipur	• Waiver of W&M advance of Rs. 345 cores

Name of states	Subject
	• Conversion of Medium Term Fiscal loan taken during 2002-03 into grant
5. Mizoram	• Waiver of Ginger loan to farmers
6. Tripura	• One time debt relief to the State by writing off all outstanding Central government loans including interest thereon

Bamboo Plantation

†2581. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a scheme to boost inclination of farmers towards bamboo crops in some States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent by Government for implementing the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, sir. The Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing a Tenth Plan initiative, in the form of a Technology Mission, the National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA), with an outlay of Rs. 100 crores. The Mission is focused on value added products and applications. The NMBA has also developed technologies and improved packages of practices for cultivation of bamboo, and for improved vegetative propagation practices. These technologies are being disseminated throughout the country to encourage intensively managed cultivation of bamboo by farmers.

Awareness on aspects of Earthquake

2582. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.